

By
Julie Meyer

In 2000, the U.S. Census Bureau counted 281.4 million people in the United States.¹ Of this number;

- 72.3 million, or 26 percent of the U.S. population, were under age 18;
- 174.1 million, or 62 percent, were age 18 to 64; and
- 35.0 million, or 12 percent, were age 65 and over.

The age groups under 18 years, 18 to 64 years, and 65 years and over experienced similar growth rates over the past decade — 13.7 percent, 13.2 percent, and 12.0 percent, respectively. Median age increased from 32.9 in 1990 to 35.3 in 2000, reflecting a change in age distribution toward the older ages within the age range 18 to 64.²

This report, part of a series that analyzes population and housing data collected from Census 2000, provides a portrait of the age structure of people in the United States. It highlights information about various age groups in the nation as a whole, the four regions, states, counties, and places with populations of 100,000

¹The text of this report discusses data for the 50 states and the District of Columbia, but not for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Island Areas.

²Median age splits the population into halves. One half of the population is older than the median age and the other half is younger.

Figure 1.

Reproduction of the Question on Age From Census 2000

4. What is this person's age and what is this person's date of birth?

Print numbers in boxes.

| Age on April 1, 2000 | Month | Day | Year of birth |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 questionnaire.

or more. It also includes comparisons with data from the 1990 census.³

A question on age has been asked since the first census of the population in 1790. The Census 2000 age data were derived from a two-part question that was asked of all people. The first part asked for the age of the person, and the second part asked for the date of birth (see Figure 1).

The Census 2000 age question added month and day of birth.

The Census 2000 age question differs slightly from the 1990 question. In the 1990 census, the question asked for a respondent's age and **year** of birth. In contrast, the Census 2000 age question asked respondents to report their age and date of birth, which included **month**, **day**, and year of birth.

³1990 populations shown in this report were originally published in 1990 census reports and do not include subsequent revisions resulting from boundary or other changes.

The figure below is a snapshot of the population in 1990 and 2000. It presents age information in 5-year age groups by sex.

In 2000, the largest 5-year age group was 35-to-39 year olds with 22.7 million people, representing 8.1 percent of the total population. The second largest 5-year age group was 40-to-44 year olds with 22.4 million people, representing 8.0 percent of the population. The relatively large number in these two age groups is represented in Figure 2 by a bulge in the age distribution. People in these two age groups were primarily born during the post-World War II “Baby Boom” (those born from 1946 through 1964). In Census 2000, the baby

boom cohort was age 36 to 54 and represented 28 percent of the total U.S. population.

The 50-to-54 year age group experienced the largest percentage growth.⁴

Of the 5-year age groups, 50-to-54 year olds experienced the largest percentage growth in population over the past decade, 55 percent (see Figure 3 and Table 1). The second fastest-growing group was the age group 45 to 49 which experienced a 45-percent increase. The baby boom cohort entered these two

⁴The changes in age structure between 1990 and 2000 may reflect changes in census coverage, as well as births, deaths, and net immigration.

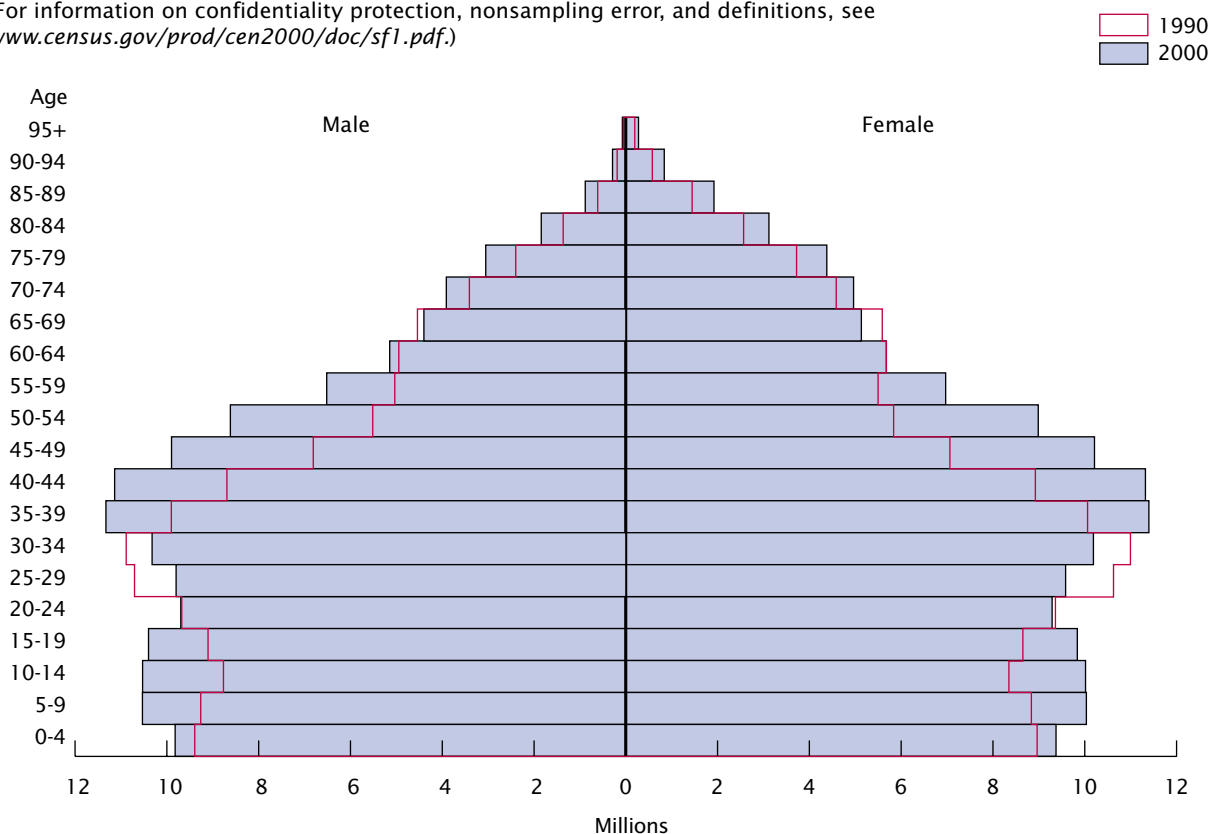
age groups during the past decade. The third fastest-growing group in the past decade was 90-to-94 year olds, which increased by 45 percent.

Some of the younger age groups also grew. The 10-to-14-year group gained almost 20 percent, while 5-to-9 year olds and 15-to-19 year olds each increased by almost 14 percent.

Four age groups shown in the figure and table declined over the past decade: 25-to-29 year olds (9-percent decrease), 30-to-34 year olds (6-percent decrease), 65-to-69 year olds (6-percent decrease), and 20-to-24 year olds (0.3-percent decrease). The number of people in the younger age groups, especially

Figure 2.
Population by Age and Sex: 1990 and 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf.)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1; 1990 Census of Population, *General Population Characteristics, United States* (1990 CP-1-1).

those age 25 to 34, fell as the baby boom cohort aged into older age groups. The decline in 65-to-69 year olds is associated with a relatively low number of births during the early 1930s.

There were more older women than older men.

In general, the ratio of the male population to the female population declined with age. That is, the female population exceeded the male population at older ages, but the reverse was true at younger ages. In 2000, there were

20.6 million women aged 65 and over compared with only 14.4 million men. In contrast, there were 37.1 million males under 18 while there were 35.2 million females. The balance shifted toward more women at age 36.⁵

⁵ For more Census 2000 information about the male and female populations, see Smith, Denise I. and Renée E. Spraggins, 2001, *Gender: 2000*, Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR/01-9, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-9.pdf.

The median age for people of Two or more races was nearly 13 years younger than the median age for people of one race.

Figure 4 shows age information by race using two ways to summarize race data. In Census 2000, individuals could report more than one race. For a detailed discussion on race reporting, see the Census 2000 Brief, *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin*.⁶ People who responded to the question on race by indicating only one race are referred to as the race *alone* population, or the group who reported *only one* race. For example, respondents who marked only the White category on the census questionnaire would be included in the White *alone* population. Six categories make up the population reporting *only one* race: White *alone*, Black or African American *alone*, American Indian and Alaska Native *alone*, Asian *alone*, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander *alone*, and Some other race *alone*.⁷

Individuals who chose more than one of the six race categories are referred to as the race *in combination* population, or as the group who reported Two or more races. For example, respondents who reported they were "White **and** Black or African American" or "White **and** Asian **and** American Indian and Alaska Native"⁸ would be

⁶Grieco, Elizabeth M. and Rachel C. Cassidy, 2001, *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin*, Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR/01-1, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-1.pdf.

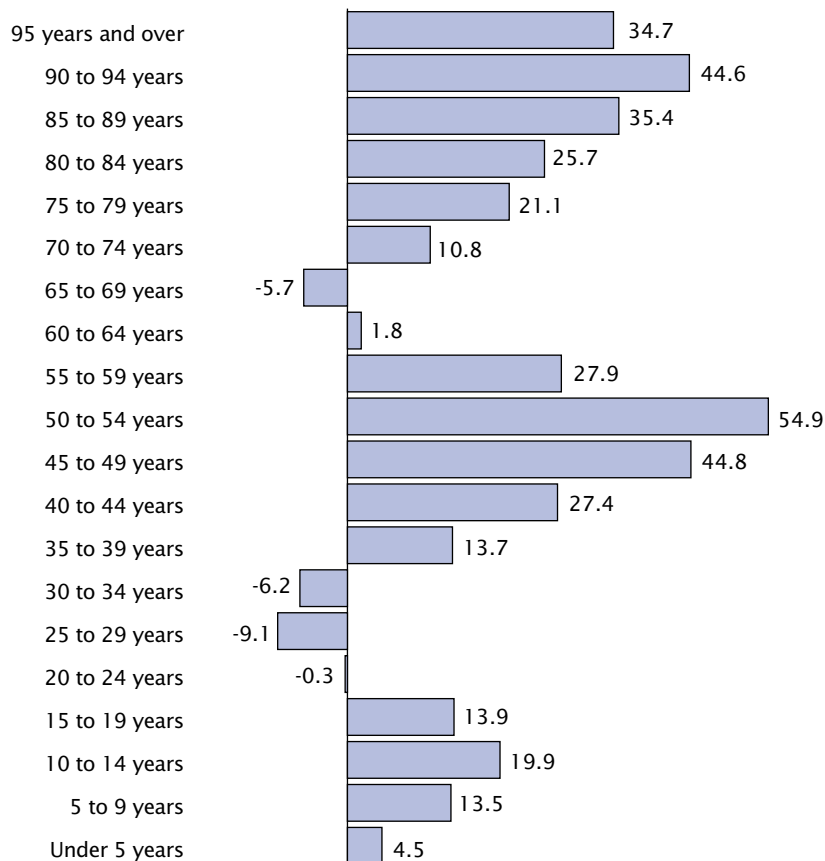
⁷Some other race is not a standard Office of Management and Budget race category.

⁸The race *in combination* categories are denoted by quotations around the combinations with the conjunction **and** in bold and italicized print to indicate the separate race groups that comprise the combination.

Figure 3.

Percent Change by Age: 1990 to 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1; 1990 Census of Population, *General Population Characteristics, United States* (1990 CP-1-1).

Table 1.
Population Change by Age: 1990 to 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

| Age | 1990 | | 2000 | | Change, 1990 to 2000 | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Total | 248,709,873 | 100.0 | 281,421,906 | 100.0 | 32,712,033 | 13.2 |
| Under 5 years | 18,354,443 | 7.4 | 19,175,798 | 6.8 | 821,355 | 4.5 |
| 5 to 9 years | 18,099,179 | 7.3 | 20,549,505 | 7.3 | 2,450,326 | 13.5 |
| 10 to 14 years | 17,114,249 | 6.9 | 20,528,072 | 7.3 | 3,413,823 | 19.9 |
| 15 to 19 years | 17,754,015 | 7.1 | 20,219,890 | 7.2 | 2,465,875 | 13.9 |
| 20 to 24 years | 19,020,312 | 7.6 | 18,964,001 | 6.7 | -56,311 | -0.3 |
| 25 to 29 years | 21,313,045 | 8.6 | 19,381,336 | 6.9 | -1,931,709 | -9.1 |
| 30 to 34 years | 21,862,887 | 8.8 | 20,510,388 | 7.3 | -1,352,499 | -6.2 |
| 35 to 39 years | 19,963,117 | 8.0 | 22,706,664 | 8.1 | 2,743,547 | 13.7 |
| 40 to 44 years | 17,615,786 | 7.1 | 22,441,863 | 8.0 | 4,826,077 | 27.4 |
| 45 to 49 years | 13,872,573 | 5.6 | 20,092,404 | 7.1 | 6,219,831 | 44.8 |
| 50 to 54 years | 11,350,513 | 4.6 | 17,585,548 | 6.2 | 6,235,035 | 54.9 |
| 55 to 59 years | 10,531,756 | 4.2 | 13,469,237 | 4.8 | 2,937,481 | 27.9 |
| 60 to 64 years | 10,616,167 | 4.3 | 10,805,447 | 3.8 | 189,280 | 1.8 |
| 65 to 69 years | 10,111,735 | 4.1 | 9,533,545 | 3.4 | -578,190 | -5.7 |
| 70 to 74 years | 7,994,823 | 3.2 | 8,857,441 | 3.1 | 862,618 | 10.8 |
| 75 to 79 years | 6,121,369 | 2.5 | 7,415,813 | 2.6 | 1,294,444 | 21.1 |
| 80 to 84 years | 3,933,739 | 1.6 | 4,945,367 | 1.8 | 1,011,628 | 25.7 |
| 85 to 89 years | 2,060,247 | 0.8 | 2,789,818 | 1.0 | 729,571 | 35.4 |
| 90 to 94 years | 769,481 | 0.3 | 1,112,531 | 0.4 | 343,050 | 44.6 |
| 95 years and over | 250,437 | 0.1 | 337,238 | 0.1 | 86,801 | 34.7 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1; 1990 Census of Population, *General Population Characteristics, United States (1990 CP-1-1)*.

included in the *in combination* population of each race.⁹

In 2000, median age varied significantly by race. People who reported Two or more races had a significantly younger median age (22.7) than the population reporting one race (35.6). The difference between the races with the youngest and oldest median ages was about 13 years. Of those respondents reporting only one race, individuals who reported Some other race had the youngest median age (24.6), which reflects the fact that 97 percent of people choosing this race were Hispanic¹⁰ and people reporting Hispanic origin, who may be of any race, had a relatively young median age. The

next youngest group was Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander *alone* (27.5), followed by American Indian and Alaska Native *alone* (28.0), Black or African American *alone* (30.2), Asian *alone* (32.7), and White *alone* (37.7).

Across all races, people who reported more than one race tended to be younger than those who reported only one race. Figure 4 shows that 42 percent of people who reported Two or more races were under age 18 compared with 25 percent of people who reported one race.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF PEOPLE IN THREE BROAD AGE CATEGORIES

Median age was highest in the Northeast and lowest in the West.

In 2000, the Northeast had the highest median age (36.8) followed by the Midwest (35.6), and the

South (35.3) as shown in Table 2.¹¹ The West had the youngest median age, 33.8. This ranking reflects the relative proportions of population in the broad age groups for each region. The Northeast had the largest proportion of people age 65 and over, while it had the smallest proportion of people under age 18. The West had the opposite situation. More specifically, the 65-and-over population made up 14 percent of the population in the Northeast, 13 percent in the

¹¹The Northeast region includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The South includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. The West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

⁹See Grieco, Elizabeth M. and Rachel C. Cassidy, 2001, *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin*, Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR/01-1, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-1.pdf.

¹⁰Ibid.

Midwest, 12 percent in the South, and 11 percent in the West. In contrast, children made up 27 percent of the population in the West followed by 26 percent in both the Midwest and South. The Northeast had 24 percent. All four regions had roughly the same proportion of

people age 18 to 64 (61 or 62 percent).

The West had the highest growth rates in all three age groups.

Growth rates for each age group varied significantly by region (see

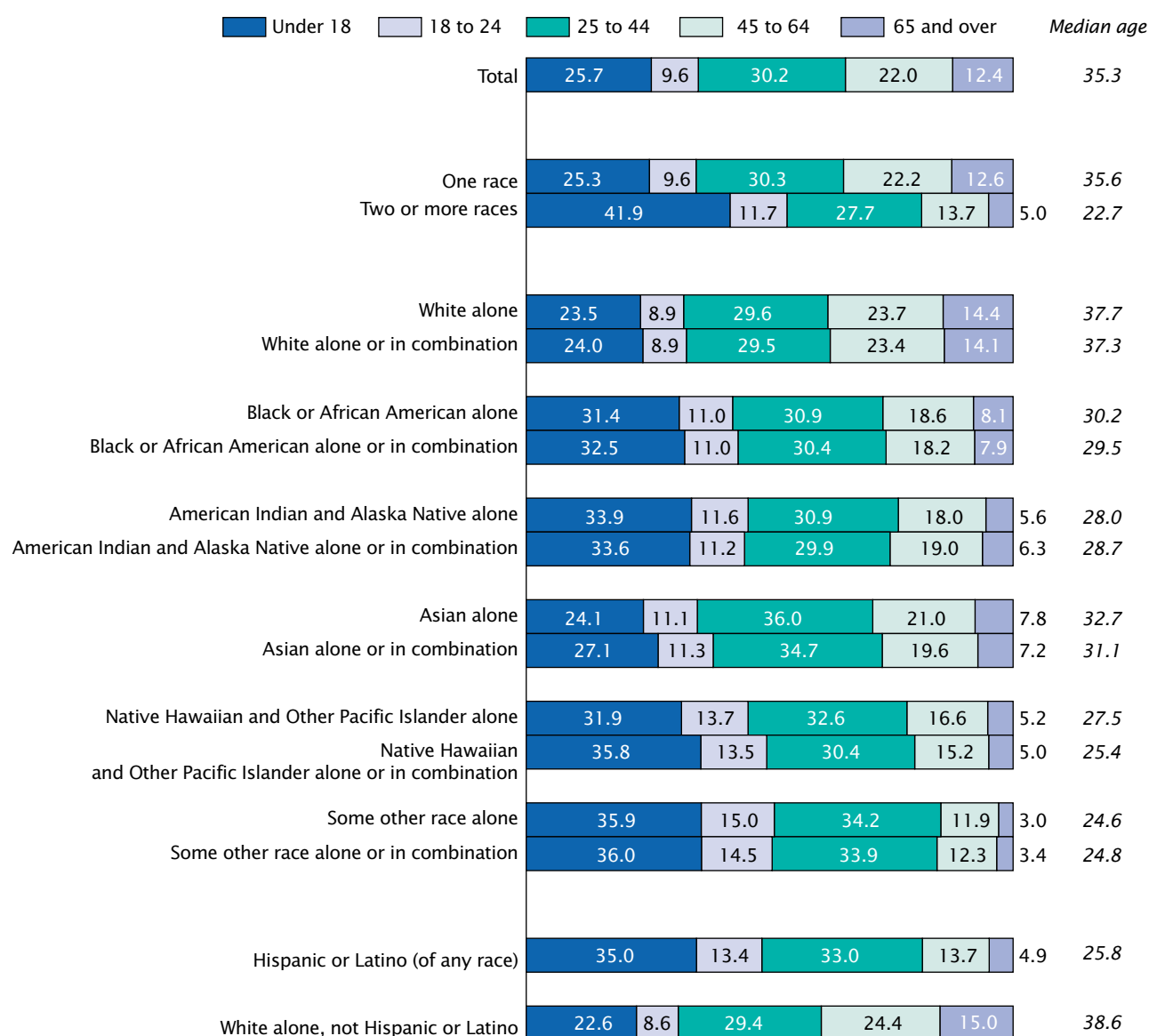
Figure 5). For children, the growth rate in the West (21 percent) was more than three times that in the Midwest and more than twice that in the Northeast.

For the population age 18 to 64, the growth rates in the South and West (18 percent and 19 percent,

Figure 4.

Percent of Population by Selected Age Groups, Race, and Hispanic or Latino Origin: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

Table 2.
Population by Selected Age Groups for the United States, Regions, and States, and for Puerto Rico: 1990 and 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

| Area | 1990 | | | | | | 2000 | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Total | Under 18 | | 65 and over | | Median age | Total | Under 18 | | 65 and over | | Median age |
| | | Number | Per-cent | Number | Per-cent | | | Number | Per-cent | Number | Per-cent | |
| United States | 248,709,873 | 63,604,432 | 25.6 | 31,241,831 | 12.6 | 32.9 | 281,421,906 | 72,293,812 | 25.7 | 34,991,753 | 12.4 | 35.3 |
| Region | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 50,809,229 | 11,913,007 | 23.4 | 6,995,156 | 13.8 | 34.2 | 53,594,378 | 13,047,783 | 24.3 | 7,372,282 | 13.8 | 36.8 |
| Midwest | 59,668,632 | 15,614,783 | 26.2 | 7,749,130 | 13.0 | 32.9 | 64,392,776 | 16,647,666 | 25.9 | 8,259,075 | 12.8 | 35.6 |
| South | 85,445,930 | 22,008,378 | 25.8 | 10,724,182 | 12.6 | 32.7 | 100,236,820 | 25,566,903 | 25.5 | 12,438,267 | 12.4 | 35.3 |
| West | 52,786,082 | 14,068,264 | 26.7 | 5,773,363 | 10.9 | 31.8 | 63,197,932 | 17,031,460 | 26.9 | 6,922,129 | 11.0 | 33.8 |
| State | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alabama | 4,040,587 | 1,058,788 | 26.2 | 522,989 | 12.9 | 33.0 | 4,447,100 | 1,123,422 | 25.3 | 579,798 | 13.0 | 35.8 |
| Alaska | 550,043 | 172,344 | 31.3 | 22,369 | 4.1 | 29.4 | 626,932 | 190,717 | 30.4 | 35,699 | 5.7 | 32.4 |
| Arizona | 3,665,228 | 981,119 | 26.8 | 478,774 | 13.1 | 32.2 | 5,130,632 | 1,366,947 | 26.6 | 667,839 | 13.0 | 34.2 |
| Arkansas | 2,350,725 | 621,131 | 26.4 | 350,058 | 14.9 | 33.8 | 2,673,400 | 680,369 | 25.4 | 374,019 | 14.0 | 36.0 |
| California | 29,760,021 | 7,750,725 | 26.0 | 3,135,552 | 10.5 | 31.4 | 33,871,648 | 9,249,829 | 27.3 | 3,595,658 | 10.6 | 33.3 |
| Colorado | 3,294,394 | 861,266 | 26.1 | 329,443 | 10.0 | 32.5 | 4,301,261 | 1,100,795 | 25.6 | 416,073 | 9.7 | 34.3 |
| Connecticut | 3,287,116 | 749,581 | 22.8 | 445,907 | 13.6 | 34.4 | 3,405,565 | 841,688 | 24.7 | 470,183 | 13.8 | 37.4 |
| Delaware | 666,168 | 163,341 | 24.5 | 80,735 | 12.1 | 32.8 | 783,600 | 194,587 | 24.8 | 101,726 | 13.0 | 36.0 |
| District of Columbia | 606,900 | 117,092 | 19.3 | 77,847 | 12.8 | 33.4 | 572,059 | 114,992 | 20.1 | 69,898 | 12.2 | 34.6 |
| Florida | 12,937,926 | 2,866,237 | 22.2 | 2,369,431 | 18.3 | 36.3 | 15,982,378 | 3,646,340 | 22.8 | 2,807,597 | 17.6 | 38.7 |
| Georgia | 6,478,216 | 1,727,303 | 26.7 | 654,270 | 10.1 | 31.5 | 8,186,453 | 2,169,234 | 26.5 | 785,275 | 9.6 | 33.4 |
| Hawaii | 1,108,229 | 280,126 | 25.3 | 125,005 | 11.3 | 32.6 | 1,211,537 | 295,767 | 24.4 | 160,601 | 13.3 | 36.2 |
| Idaho | 1,006,749 | 308,405 | 30.6 | 121,265 | 12.0 | 31.5 | 1,293,953 | 369,030 | 28.5 | 145,916 | 11.3 | 33.2 |
| Illinois | 11,430,602 | 2,946,366 | 25.8 | 1,436,545 | 12.6 | 32.8 | 12,419,293 | 3,245,451 | 26.1 | 1,500,025 | 12.1 | 34.7 |
| Indiana | 5,544,159 | 1,455,964 | 26.3 | 696,196 | 12.6 | 32.8 | 6,080,485 | 1,574,396 | 25.9 | 752,831 | 12.4 | 35.2 |
| Iowa | 2,776,755 | 718,880 | 25.9 | 426,106 | 15.3 | 34.0 | 2,926,324 | 733,638 | 25.1 | 436,213 | 14.9 | 36.6 |
| Kansas | 2,477,574 | 661,614 | 26.7 | 342,571 | 13.8 | 32.9 | 2,688,418 | 712,993 | 26.5 | 356,229 | 13.3 | 35.2 |
| Kentucky | 3,685,296 | 954,094 | 25.9 | 466,845 | 12.7 | 33.0 | 4,041,769 | 994,818 | 24.6 | 504,793 | 12.5 | 35.9 |
| Louisiana | 4,219,973 | 1,227,269 | 29.1 | 468,991 | 11.1 | 31.0 | 4,468,976 | 1,219,799 | 27.3 | 516,929 | 11.6 | 34.0 |
| Maine | 1,227,928 | 309,002 | 25.2 | 163,373 | 13.3 | 33.9 | 1,274,923 | 301,238 | 23.6 | 183,402 | 14.4 | 38.6 |
| Maryland | 4,781,468 | 1,162,241 | 24.3 | 517,482 | 10.8 | 33.0 | 5,296,486 | 1,356,172 | 25.6 | 599,307 | 11.3 | 36.0 |
| Massachusetts | 6,016,425 | 1,353,075 | 22.5 | 819,284 | 13.6 | 33.5 | 6,349,097 | 1,500,064 | 23.6 | 860,162 | 13.5 | 36.5 |
| Michigan | 9,295,297 | 2,458,765 | 26.5 | 1,108,461 | 11.9 | 32.6 | 9,938,444 | 2,595,767 | 26.1 | 1,219,018 | 12.3 | 35.5 |
| Minnesota | 4,375,099 | 1,166,783 | 26.7 | 546,934 | 12.5 | 32.4 | 4,919,479 | 1,286,894 | 26.2 | 594,266 | 12.1 | 35.4 |
| Mississippi | 2,573,216 | 746,761 | 29.0 | 321,284 | 12.5 | 31.1 | 2,844,658 | 775,187 | 27.3 | 343,523 | 12.1 | 33.8 |
| Missouri | 5,117,073 | 1,314,826 | 25.7 | 717,681 | 14.0 | 33.5 | 5,595,211 | 1,427,692 | 25.5 | 755,379 | 13.5 | 36.1 |
| Montana | 799,065 | 222,104 | 27.8 | 106,497 | 13.3 | 33.8 | 902,195 | 230,062 | 25.5 | 120,949 | 13.4 | 37.5 |
| Nebraska | 1,578,385 | 429,012 | 27.2 | 223,068 | 14.1 | 33.0 | 1,711,263 | 450,242 | 26.3 | 232,195 | 13.6 | 35.3 |
| Nevada | 1,201,833 | 296,948 | 24.7 | 127,631 | 10.6 | 33.3 | 1,998,257 | 511,799 | 25.6 | 218,929 | 11.0 | 35.0 |
| New Hampshire | 1,109,252 | 278,755 | 25.1 | 125,029 | 11.3 | 32.8 | 1,235,786 | 309,562 | 25.0 | 147,970 | 12.0 | 37.1 |
| New Jersey | 7,730,188 | 1,799,462 | 23.3 | 1,032,025 | 13.4 | 34.4 | 8,414,350 | 2,087,558 | 24.8 | 1,113,136 | 13.2 | 36.7 |
| New Mexico | 1,515,069 | 446,741 | 29.5 | 163,062 | 10.8 | 31.2 | 1,819,046 | 508,574 | 28.0 | 212,225 | 11.7 | 34.6 |
| New York | 17,990,455 | 4,259,549 | 23.7 | 2,363,722 | 13.1 | 33.8 | 18,976,457 | 4,690,107 | 24.7 | 2,448,352 | 12.9 | 35.9 |
| North Carolina | 6,628,637 | 1,606,149 | 24.2 | 804,341 | 12.1 | 33.1 | 8,049,313 | 1,964,047 | 24.4 | 969,048 | 12.0 | 35.3 |
| North Dakota | 638,800 | 175,385 | 27.5 | 91,055 | 14.3 | 32.4 | 642,200 | 160,849 | 25.0 | 94,478 | 14.7 | 36.2 |
| Ohio | 10,847,115 | 2,799,744 | 25.8 | 1,406,961 | 13.0 | 33.3 | 11,353,140 | 2,888,339 | 25.4 | 1,507,757 | 13.3 | 36.2 |
| Oklahoma | 3,145,585 | 837,007 | 26.6 | 424,213 | 13.5 | 33.1 | 3,450,654 | 892,360 | 25.9 | 455,950 | 13.2 | 35.5 |
| Oregon | 2,842,321 | 724,130 | 25.5 | 391,324 | 13.8 | 34.6 | 3,421,399 | 846,526 | 24.7 | 438,177 | 12.8 | 36.3 |
| Pennsylvania | 11,881,643 | 2,794,810 | 23.5 | 1,829,106 | 15.4 | 35.0 | 12,281,054 | 2,922,221 | 23.8 | 1,919,165 | 15.6 | 38.0 |
| Rhode Island | 1,003,464 | 225,690 | 22.5 | 150,547 | 15.0 | 33.9 | 1,048,319 | 247,822 | 23.6 | 152,402 | 14.5 | 36.7 |
| South Carolina | 3,486,703 | 920,207 | 26.4 | 396,935 | 11.4 | 32.0 | 4,012,012 | 1,009,641 | 25.2 | 485,333 | 12.1 | 35.4 |
| South Dakota | 696,004 | 198,462 | 28.5 | 102,331 | 14.7 | 32.5 | 754,844 | 202,649 | 26.8 | 108,131 | 14.3 | 35.6 |
| Tennessee | 4,877,185 | 1,216,604 | 24.9 | 618,818 | 12.7 | 33.5 | 5,689,283 | 1,398,521 | 24.6 | 703,311 | 12.4 | 35.9 |
| Texas | 16,986,510 | 4,835,839 | 28.5 | 1,716,576 | 10.1 | 30.7 | 20,851,820 | 5,886,759 | 28.2 | 2,072,532 | 9.9 | 32.3 |
| Utah | 1,722,850 | 627,444 | 36.4 | 149,958 | 8.7 | 26.3 | 2,233,169 | 718,698 | 32.2 | 190,222 | 8.5 | 27.1 |
| Vermont | 562,758 | 143,083 | 25.4 | 66,163 | 11.8 | 33.0 | 608,827 | 147,523 | 24.2 | 77,510 | 12.7 | 37.7 |
| Virginia | 6,187,358 | 1,504,738 | 24.3 | 664,470 | 10.7 | 32.6 | 7,078,515 | 1,738,262 | 24.6 | 792,333 | 11.2 | 35.7 |
| Washington | 4,866,692 | 1,261,387 | 25.9 | 575,288 | 11.8 | 33.1 | 5,894,121 | 1,513,843 | 25.7 | 662,148 | 11.2 | 35.3 |
| West Virginia | 1,793,477 | 443,577 | 24.7 | 268,897 | 15.0 | 35.4 | 1,808,344 | 402,393 | 22.3 | 276,895 | 15.3 | 38.9 |
| Wisconsin | 4,891,769 | 1,288,982 | 26.4 | 651,221 | 13.3 | 32.9 | 5,363,675 | 1,368,756 | 25.5 | 702,553 | 13.1 | 36.0 |
| Wyoming | 453,588 | 135,525 | 29.9 | 47,195 | 10.4 | 32.1 | 493,782 | 128,873 | 26.1 | 57,693 | 11.7 | 36.2 |
| Puerto Rico | 3,522,037 | 1,154,527 | 32.8 | 340,884 | 9.7 | 28.4 | 3,808,610 | 1,092,101 | 28.7 | 425,137 | 11.2 | 32.1 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1; 1990 Census of Population, *General Population Characteristics, United States (1990 CP-1-1)* and *Puerto Rico (1990 CP-1-53)*.

respectively) were more than four times that in the Northeast for the same age group and more than twice that in the Midwest in this age group.

For the population 65 years and over, the growth rate in the South (16 percent) was nearly three times the growth rate in the Northeast. And the growth rate in the West (20 percent) was more than three times that of both the Northeast and the Midwest for this age group.

In the Northeast and West, the population under age 18 grew the fastest; in the Midwest and South, the 18-to-64-year age group grew the fastest.

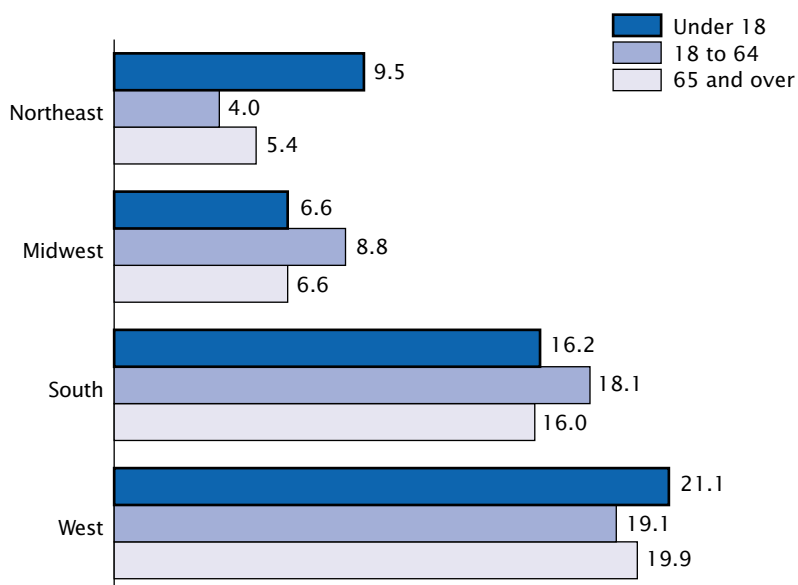
A comparison of growth rates for each age group within each region showed differences. In the Northeast and West, the population under 18 grew the fastest of the three age groups. More specifically, the population under 18 years in the Northeast grew at a rate of 10 percent, compared with the lower growth rates of 5 percent for those 65 years and over and 4 percent for those 18 to 64. In the West, the population under 18 years old also grew the fastest of the three age groups between 1990 and 2000, although the other two groups grew quickly as well.

The fastest growing age group in both the Midwest and South was 18-to-64 year olds. In the Midwest, this age group grew 9 percent, a slightly higher growth rate than for the other two broad age groups, each with 7 percent. In the South, the age group 18 to 64 also grew the fastest of the three age groups, 18 percent during the decade. Both the population under age 18 and the population age 65 and over

Figure 5.

Percent Change in Population by Selected Age Groups and Regions: 1990 to 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1; 1990 Census of Population, General Population Characteristics, United States (1990 CP-1-1).

increased at a slightly lower rate of 16 percent.

West Virginia had the highest median age.

The Northeast was the only region where all states had median ages above the national level. In contrast, the West was the only region where states with median ages below the U.S. median outnumbered states with older median ages (see Figure 6).

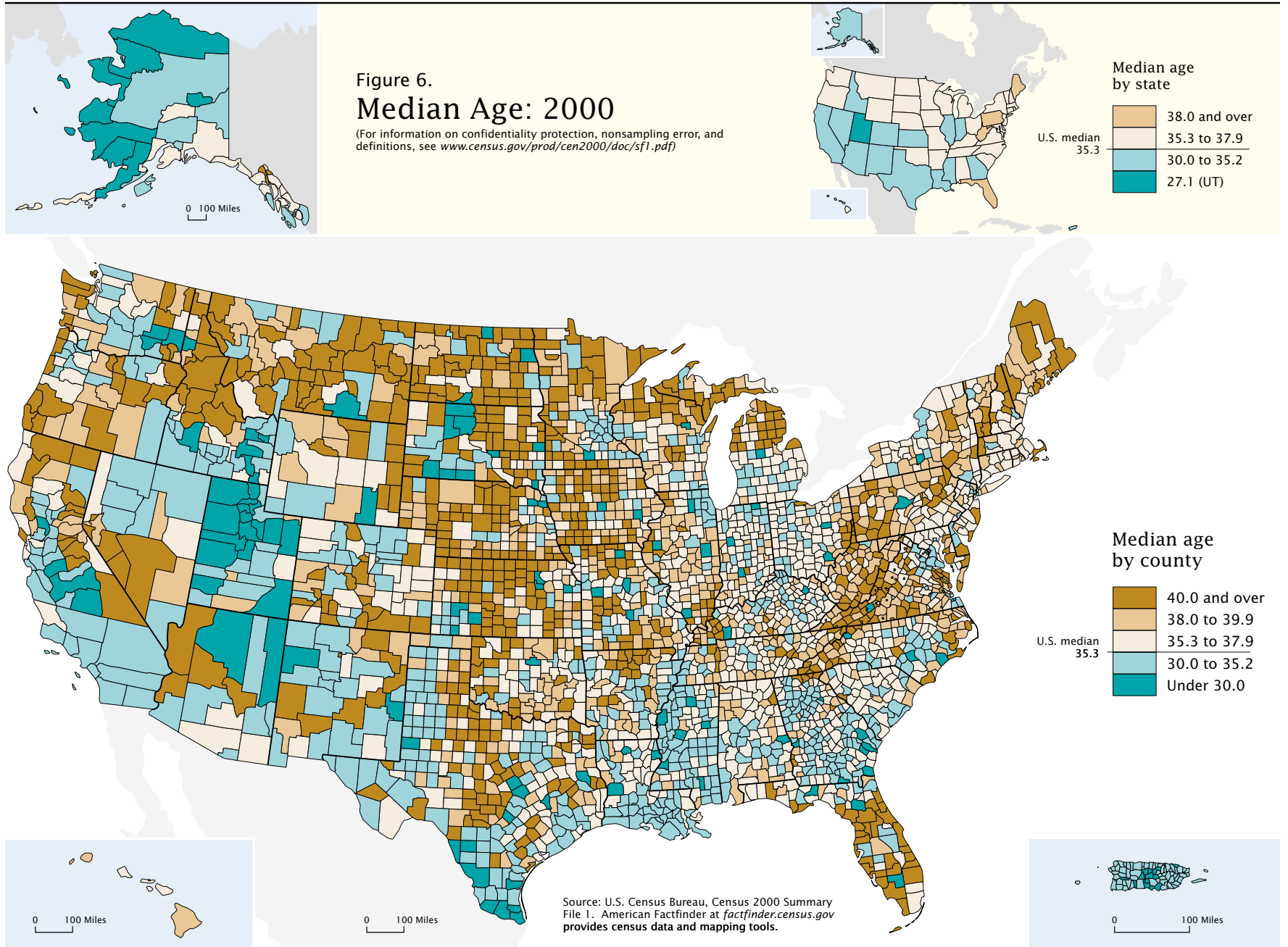
The states with the highest median ages were West Virginia (38.9), Florida (38.7), Maine (38.6), and Pennsylvania (38.0). Utah had the youngest population and was the only state with a median age below 30 years (27.1). Other

states with low median ages were Texas (32.3) and Alaska (32.4) as shown in Table 2.

Florida had the highest proportion 65 years and over.

The proportion 65 years and over ranged from a low of 6 percent in Alaska to 18 percent in Florida.¹² In addition to Alaska, states that had a relatively low percentage of older adults were Utah (9 percent) and Georgia, Colorado, and Texas (each 10 percent). States along with

¹²For more Census 2000 information about the population 65 years and over, see Hetzel, Lisa and Annetta Smith, 2001, *The 65 Years and Over Population: 2000*, Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR/01-10, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-10.pdf.



Florida that had a relatively high percentage of older adults were Pennsylvania (16 percent) and West Virginia, Iowa, North Dakota, and Rhode Island (each 15 percent).

In 14 states, the older population¹³ grew by more than 20 percent relative to the U.S. rate of 12 percent. Nevada had the highest growth rate for this age group (72 percent).¹⁴ Alaska also experienced a large percentage increase (60 percent). Only the District of Columbia experienced a decline in the number of older adults (10-percent decrease).

The District of Columbia still had the largest proportion of people age 18 to 64 (67.7 percent), although this proportion was even higher in 1990 (67.9 percent). The proportion of people in this age group ranged from 59 percent to 65 percent across states. The states with the highest proportions (64 or 65 percent) were Colorado, Virginia, Georgia, Alaska, and North Carolina. The states with the lowest proportions (59 or 60 percent) were South Dakota, Utah, Florida, Iowa, and Nebraska.

The number of children grew by more than 25 percent in five states; five states experienced a percentage decline.

In five states, the population under 18 years grew by more than 25 percent, much higher than the U.S. increase of 14 percent. Those five states were Nevada (72 percent), Arizona (39 percent), Colorado (28 percent), Florida (27 percent), and Georgia (26 percent).

¹³For this report, the older population is defined as people 65 years and over.

¹⁴Nevada had the highest growth rate for all three age groups.

Five states and the District of Columbia experienced a decline in the population under age 18 between 1990 and 2000 — West Virginia (9-percent decrease), North Dakota (8-percent decrease), Wyoming (5-percent decrease), Maine (3-percent decrease), and Louisiana (1-percent decrease). The District of Columbia experienced a decrease of 2 percent.

Counties with low median ages were mostly in the southern and western portions of the country.

Median age varied among counties in the United States. Figure 6 shows median age for the country's 3,141 counties and equivalent areas. There were 734 counties with median age 40.0 and over and 131 counties with median age under 30.0. The areas with median age generally at the U.S. median or younger were in the southwest border region. In contrast, two bands of counties had older median ages — in the interior Northeast and Appalachia, and across the Great Plains states from the Mexican border to the Canadian border.

The Midwest had the highest percentage of counties with older median ages.

In terms of proportion, the Midwest had the largest percentage of its counties with median ages 40.0 and over (31 percent), followed by the West (29 percent), Northeast (19 percent), and South (17 percent). In contrast, the West had the largest proportion of counties with median ages less than 30.0 (10 percent), followed by the Midwest (4 percent), the South (3 percent), and the Northeast (1 percent).

There were three counties with 100,000 or more population where

median ages were very high (50.0 and over). All of them — Charlotte County (54.3), Citrus County (52.6), and Sarasota County (50.5) — were in Florida.

In contrast, four counties with 100,000 or more population had median ages below 26.0: Utah County, Utah (23.3); Brazos County, Texas (23.6); Onslow County, North Carolina (25.0); and Clarke County, Georgia (25.4).

In four states, all the counties in the state had median ages at or above the national median of 35.3. Those states were: Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, and Hawaii. There were no states where all the counties had median ages less than the national median. Utah came closest with 86 percent of its counties having median ages below the national median.

The places with the oldest populations (in terms of median age) were in the regions with the youngest median ages.

Five of the ten places (population of 100,000 or more) with the lowest median ages in 2000 were in California, and all were either in the South or West. Provo, Utah had the lowest median age (22.9) as shown in Table 3. Although the South and West were the regions with the lowest median ages, all but one of the top ten places with the highest median ages were also in these two regions (see Table 4). The one exception was Livonia, Michigan (40.2). Five of the ten places with the highest median ages were in Florida, where Clearwater, Florida had the highest (41.8). All of the ten largest cities had median ages below the national median (see Table 5).

Table 3.
Ten Places of 100,000 or More Population With the Lowest Median Age: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

| Place ¹ | Total population | Median age | Percent under 18 | Percent 65 and over |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Provo, UT | 105,166 | 22.9 | 22.3 | 5.7 |
| Athens-Clarke County, GA* | 101,489 | 25.4 | 17.8 | 8.1 |
| Fontana, CA | 128,929 | 26.2 | 37.8 | 4.7 |
| Tallahassee, FL | 150,624 | 26.3 | 17.4 | 8.2 |
| East Los Angeles, CA* | 124,283 | 26.5 | 34.6 | 7.9 |
| Pomona, CA | 149,473 | 26.5 | 34.6 | 6.4 |
| Santa Ana, CA | 337,977 | 26.5 | 34.2 | 5.5 |
| West Valley City, UT | 108,896 | 26.8 | 33.7 | 5.4 |
| Laredo, TX | 176,576 | 26.9 | 35.5 | 7.8 |
| El Monte, CA | 115,965 | 27.1 | 34.1 | 6.9 |

*Athens-Clarke County, GA is a city-county consolidation. East Los Angeles, CA is a census designated place and is not legally incorporated.

¹Census 2000 showed 245 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They included 238 incorporated places (including 4 city-county consolidations) and 7 census designated places that were not legally incorporated. For a list of these places by state, see www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t6.html.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

Table 4.
Ten Places of 100,000 or More Population With the Highest Median Age: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

| Place ¹ | Total population | Median age | Percent under 18 | Percent 65 and over |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Clearwater, FL | 108,787 | 41.8 | 19.1 | 21.5 |
| Cape Coral, FL | 102,286 | 41.6 | 22.6 | 19.6 |
| Scottsdale, AZ | 202,705 | 41.0 | 19.3 | 16.7 |
| Livonia, MI | 100,545 | 40.2 | 23.8 | 16.9 |
| Honolulu, HI* | 371,657 | 39.7 | 19.2 | 17.8 |
| Metairie, LA* | 146,136 | 39.5 | 20.6 | 16.4 |
| St. Petersburg, FL | 248,232 | 39.3 | 21.5 | 17.4 |
| Fort Lauderdale, FL | 152,397 | 39.3 | 19.4 | 15.3 |
| Hollywood, FL | 139,357 | 39.2 | 21.3 | 17.3 |
| Torrance, CA | 137,946 | 38.7 | 23.0 | 14.1 |

*Honolulu, HI and Metairie, LA are census designated places and are not legally incorporated.

¹Census 2000 showed 245 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They included 238 incorporated places (including 4 city-county consolidations) and 7 census designated places that were not legally incorporated. For a list of these places by state, see www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t6.html.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ON AGE

Which states had the highest concentration of baby boomers?

Earlier in this report, the baby boom cohort (people ages 36 to 54 in 2000) was shown to make up a large share of the total U.S. population. In 2000, the proportion of

baby boomers in the states ranged from 23 percent to 32 percent. The states where baby boomers made up 30 percent or more of their populations were Alaska (32 percent), New Hampshire (31 percent), Vermont (31 percent), and Maine (30 percent). In contrast, Utah (23 percent) was the only state where baby boomers constituted less than 25 percent.

How many school-age children were there in 2000?

In 2000, there were 53.1 million elementary- and high school-age children (5-to-17-year olds), 73 percent of the population under age 18. There were 7.8 million pre-school-age children (3-to-4-year olds). Infants and toddlers (0-to-2-year olds) represented 16 percent of the population under age 18.

Table 5.
Ten Largest Cities by Age: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

| City | Total population | Median age | Percent under 18 | Percent 65 and over |
|------------------------|------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------|
| New York, NY | 8,008,278 | 34.2 | 24.2 | 11.7 |
| Los Angeles, CA | 3,694,820 | 31.6 | 26.6 | 9.7 |
| Chicago, IL | 2,896,016 | 31.5 | 26.2 | 10.3 |
| Houston, TX | 1,953,631 | 30.9 | 27.5 | 8.4 |
| Philadelphia, PA | 1,517,550 | 34.2 | 25.3 | 14.1 |
| Phoenix, AZ | 1,321,045 | 30.7 | 28.9 | 8.1 |
| San Diego, CA | 1,223,400 | 32.5 | 24.0 | 10.5 |
| Dallas, TX | 1,188,580 | 30.5 | 26.6 | 8.6 |
| San Antonio, TX | 1,144,646 | 31.7 | 28.5 | 10.4 |
| Detroit, MI | 951,270 | 30.9 | 31.1 | 10.4 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

ABOUT CENSUS 2000

Why did Census 2000 ask the question on age?

The Census Bureau collects age data to support two basic activities:

- Legislative redistricting and
- Allocating funds from federal programs to targeted age groups.

For example, age data are used in calculating the proportion of school-age children in poverty for each school district for allocating federal funds to assist educationally disadvantaged children. The Department of Veterans Affairs uses age data to develop state projections on the need for hospitals, nursing homes, cemeteries, and other services for veterans.

Communities can use census age data to aid them in making

informed decisions about how to meet the needs of their older and their younger citizens. Researchers can use these data in their research on school-age children and many other age-related topics. Business owners can use these data in planning a new business around the needs of a certain age group in the community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

More information on age data is available by visiting the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at www.census.gov (Click "A" for Age Data in the Subjects A to Z list).

Data on age from the Census 2000 Summary File 1 were released on a state-by-state basis during the summer of 2001 and are available via factfinder.census.gov and for purchase on CD-ROM and later on DVD.

For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf, or contact our Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

Information on other population and housing topics is presented in the Census 2000 Brief series, located on the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html. This series presents information about race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and other social, economic, and housing characteristics.

For more information about Census 2000, including data products, call our Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636) or e-mail webmaster@census.gov.

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
Washington, DC 20233

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Penalty for Private Use \$300

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
U.S. Census Bureau
Permit No. G-58